

**USAID/India's Economic Development of Tibetan Settlements (EDOTS)
RFA-386-11-000001, Amendment # 1**

I. The Points of Contact in the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) are:

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II. Changes to RFA:

The first evaluation sub-criterion under technical approach is modified to include:

- The interventions need to emphasize a business-driven approach with strong revenue generating model(s).

III. Questions and Answers:

Q.1 How many Tibetan settlements are there, and what is the average population per settlement? Your briefing paper indicates that there are 54 Tibetan settlements in India, Nepal, and Bhutan. Do we work in all 54?

A.1 Please refer to page 22 of the RFA (Background Section):

There are approximately 125,000 exiles living in India, Nepal, and Bhutan. Nearly 70,000 of these live in 54 settlements; the remaining 55,000 live in scattered communities and cities in South Asia. Please refer to RFA Attachment F, Annex I that provides the link to <http://www.tibetgov.net/settlements.html> for more information on individual settlements, including population, education, health facilities, etc. However, due diligence will need to be conducted by the Applicant to establish the estimated population of any given settlement.

RFA Attachment F, Annex II also provides a link to an assessment of 10 Tibetan settlements in India entitled *The Economic Development Program of Tibetan Refugees in India: Improving the Quality of Life through the Creation and Enhancement of Livelihood Opportunities* (May 2010, by TechnoServe), which provides considerable details on the settlements.

Please refer to page 29 of the RFA (Results under the EDOTS Objective Section):

The proposed EDOTS program will focus on select settlements where models or best practices for economic revitalization as they relate to organic agriculture and workforce development can be developed and scaled-up to other settlements.”

Therefore, Applicants would not need to work in all 54 settlements. However, it is up to the Applicants to select the settlements based on their own due diligence.

Please also see evaluation criteria on page 50 for geographic focus.

Q.2 Specifically, where are settlements located, and what are the local conditions; e.g. water, soils, topography, elevations, climate, etc.?

A.2 Please refer to pages 23 and 24 of the RFA (Figures 1 & 2: Type of Settlements): These figures provide the names and locations of a large number of settlements across India, Nepal and Bhutan. We leave it to the Applicants to be otherwise resourceful to determine the remaining geographic information.

Also refer to RFA Attachment F, Annexes I to X.

Q.3 Do we assume that most settlements do not have Internet connections, and computers, to facilitate a distance education effort? If this assumption is correct, the alternative may be to operate a Radio School similar to Radio Puno (in Peru) operated by and for the Quechua Indians. Do the Tibetans operate a Radio School to advance their customs, culture, and language, while providing basic and development education? If not, what are the possible "barriers" to operating such a Radio School?

A.3 In general, computer facilities in India's public schools are sparse. Internet connectivity is even lower. Much of the connectivity is driven by geographical locations and income criterion, such as rural versus urban or the poorer habitations versus the more elite ones. Therefore, the Applicant will be required to conduct due diligence in this area to determine the status of computers and Internet connectivity in schools across Tibetan settlements.

Also refer to RFA Attachment F, Annexes I to X.

Q.4 Do these settlements have significant problems as related to water or food shortages, lack of sanitation, lack of electricity or utilities, poor or inadequate transportation, education, health/ medical services, etc.?

A.4 Yes, this is the case in some settlements. It is up to the Applicants to assess these issues and consider, as appropriate, in the concept paper.

Also refer to RFA Attachment F, Annexes I to X.

Q.5 What food, feed, fiber, and/or green energy crops are to be given development priority?

A.5 USAID's Feed the Future (FTF) Initiative renews the U.S. commitment to sustainably reduce hunger and poverty in selected countries. This is primarily addressed

through increasing agricultural productivity and food security. Applicants can refer to www.feedthefuture.gov for more details.

Q.6 What types of value-added food products, cottage industries, and microenterprises now exist?

A.6 See below for illustrative information for India:

- India's food processing sector covers fruits and vegetables; meat and poultry; milk and milk products, beverages, fisheries, plantation, grain processing and other consumer product groups like confectionery, chocolates and cocoa products, soya-based products, mineral water, high-protein foods, etc. According to the report *Indian Food and Drinks Market: Emerging Opportunities*, published by a market research firm RNCOS in April 2010, the Indian food and beverage market is expanding rapidly and is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of about 7.5 per cent during 2009-13 and would reach USD 330 billion by 2013.
- India's cottage industries support a large portion of the rural population. Since 70 percent of the population is rural, the Government of India has promoted several schemes to support the cottage industries sector. For example, the Prime Minister's *Rozgar Yojana Scheme* (PMRYS) launched in 1993 for the educated but unemployed youth attempts to provide youth with self-employment ventures in small-scale industries, services and business.
- Most home-based enterprises are based on traditional skills producing traditional consumer goods, including carpets, jewelry, wall furnishings, traditional medicines, condiments, and delicatessens.
- Microenterprises and microfinance are widespread in India. The inadequacies of the formal financial system to cater to the needs of the poor and the realization that the key to success lies in the evolution and participation of community-based organizations at the grassroots level have led to the emergence of a new generation of microfinance institutions.

Q.7 What are the typical or suggested local salaries for local technicians and interpreters (if available)? What types of benefits are usual for such local employees?

A.7 See below:

- Please refer to pages 66-74 of the RFA (Attachment F, Annex - XIV) where guidance on local compensation plan is provided. The Applicant will need to dovetail this with their policies and procedures and appropriate labor laws.

Q.8 If there is an existing agricultural experiment station, in a central location, that might be used to help train agricultural extension agents? If so, what arrangements

would need to be made for the partial use of such facility? Is there a centrally located technical college now engaged in teaching assorted cottage industries and/or microenterprises? Would it be possible to make use of these types of existing programs?

A.8 With regards to existing agricultural experiment stations and centrally located colleges, due diligence will be required by the Applicant to answer these questions. It is up to the Applicant to consider and include in the concept paper.

Q.9 What time and funds may be allocated to advance project planning?

A.9 Funds shall be obligated in the Cooperative Agreement at the time of award.

Q.10 Do local populations/ governments support development/ expansion of these Tibetan settlements?

A.10 It is up to the Applicants to determine support from local populations and governments. As per the evaluation criteria of the RFA, there should be clear coordination with the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) on how this program will work towards the goal of ensuring replication elsewhere in the Tibetan communities. Applicants are encouraged to meet with the CTA before submitting their concept papers to ensure that the ground level conditions considered are valid and need/demand based.

Also refer to RFA Attachment F, Annexes I to X.

Q.11 What are the common diseases for human, poultry, and livestock?

A.11 Applicants should exercise due diligence in obtaining this information, if needed.

Q.12 Does USAID/India envision that livelihood activities will take place in all three countries (India, Nepal and Bhutan), or can they take place in India alone? Would USAID support a concept note that only included selected Tibetan communities in Nepal and India, not Bhutan?

A.12 All three countries must benefit from interventions funded under the Cooperative Agreement. However, it is up to the Applicant to determine the split between livelihoods/workforce development and organic farming per funding breakdown provided in Table I on page 35 of the RFA.

Q.13 The subject RFA seeks to provide assistance to 54 Tibetan refugee settlements in scattered, remote regions of India, Nepal, and Bhutan. In view of time and distance factors, we believe air transport will be critical to project success. We have a possible sponsor of a demonstration aircraft, the Seahawk, designed for support and/or homeland security operations. This aircraft will be manufactured by Millennium Aerospace Corp. (MAC), in the U.S. If the Indian Air Force desires to participate in demonstration of practical use of this aircraft, our sponsor might pay for six aircraft, along with costs of crew training, fuel, maintenance facilities, maintenance teams, and full salaries for all

participants. The use stipulation on these aircraft would require that 50 percent of use would be for development operations (such as subject project), and the other 50 percent of use would be for homeland security or COIN Ops (counterinsurgency/ counterterror, border/ coastal security operations). Is it possible for USAID to put us in contact w/ Indian Air Force officers, to discuss our concept --- and related possibility of aircraft funding?

A.13 Since the successful recipient is not expected to work in all 54 settlements, the question does not appear to be relevant. Please refer to Question 1 above.

Q.14 The most logical partner for my ideas would be local government. Can the Central Tibetan Relief Committee be an active partner in this grant implementation? And to your knowledge, would they be willing to be a partner?

A.14 Coordination and partnership with local governments are encouraged. We leave it to the Applicants to determine this. There should be clear coordination with the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) on how this program will work towards the goal of ensuring replication elsewhere in the Tibetan communities. Applicants are encouraged to meet with the CTA before submitting their applications to ensure that the ground level conditions considered are valid and need/demand based.

Q.15 If young Tibetans were brought to the United States to work a year on successful, commercial-sized organic farms, and trained to become farm managers, can the grant funds pay transportation and stipend, and the training, housing, and board provided by the various partner farms, be considered leverage or match?

A.15 It is up to the Applicants to decide on their approach. Applicants are reminded that there are limited resources available for this program.

Q.16 Can direct fund-raising in the United States for Agriculture development projects in the Tibetan settlements be used as leverage or dollar match under this Cooperative Agreement?

A.16 Yes. However, only the fund-raiser position would be an allowable cost, not fund-raising events themselves.

Q.17 Is the workforce development component meant for the agro-industry/ handicraft settlements only or, does USAID envision that other types of settlements (e.g. agricultural settlements, scattered settlements) will also be involved in the workforce development component?

A.17 The workforce development component is not restricted to activities primarily based on agriculture even in communities that have farming as one of their major pursuits. It has to be designed and implemented according to the demands in the selected settlements, market competitiveness and the emerging opportunities identified; the kind

of vocational skills to be provided may vary depending on the type of settlement. We leave it to the Applicants to determine this.

Q.18 Under the organic agriculture component, we understand it would not be possible to cover other types of settlements as land for agriculture is not available in those settlements. Does USAID agree?

A.18 The organic component can be implemented where farming plots or home-stead gardens are available. This may be the case in some of the settlements that have not been characterized as agricultural-based. It is up to the Applicant to determine what is most suitable.

Q.19 Is it essential to look at ‘organic’ agriculture, which would essentially limit the intervention to those limited number of farmers having organic certification. The term of the EDOTS intervention is not long enough to fully convert and certify a new farmer as organic (which takes 3 plus years).

A.19 It is ideal for the farmers to have organic certification linked to a high-value market. Several steps are required to convert the existing farming practices and fulfill the stipulated conditions to reach that kind of status. However, each of these steps is important in its achievement and indicates a progress towards an ideal situation. It is not necessary for all farmers to be certified. Some farmers may already be practicing organic agriculture in some form and not using chemicals or artificial inputs. What is important is that the practice of *organic* farming (using natural resources predominantly) is eco-friendly, addresses NRM concerns, is productive, and, to an extent, contributes to the economy of the household.

Q.20 Are non-U.S. organizations (like those based in Switzerland) eligible to apply?

A.20 All organizations, except those with a nationality of Cuba, Iran, Libya, North Korea, and Syria, are eligible to apply.

Q.21 Is a commercial farm in the United States eligible to be the implementing partner under this RFA as a commercial organization?

A.21 Yes.

- End of Amendment # 1 -